HEAVILY PENALIZED

Lakers stave off rally, win 6-4

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

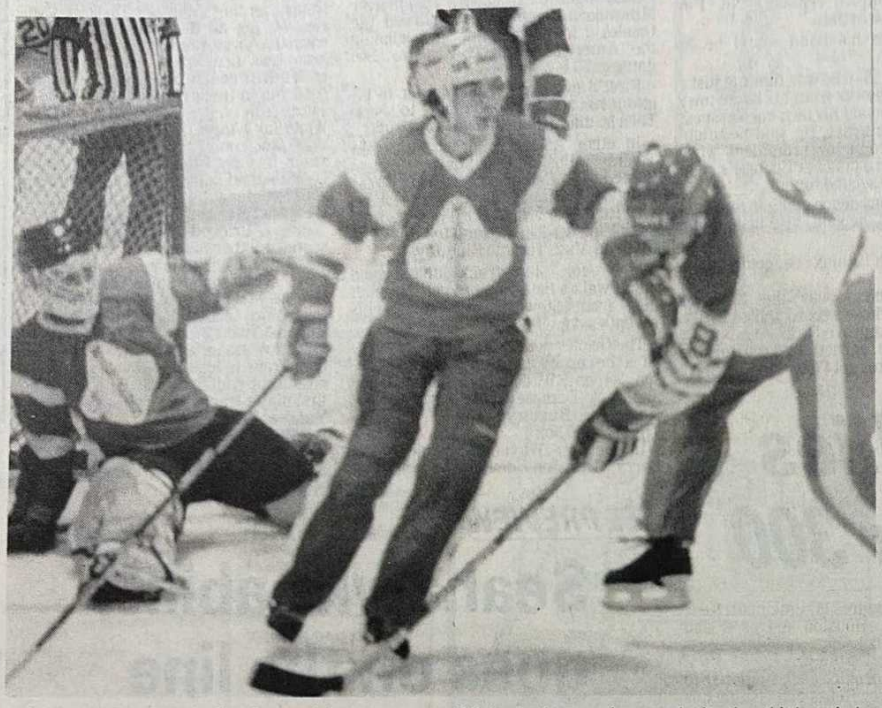
For the longest while it appeared to be a blowout between Vernon Lakers and Revelstoke Rangers Friday night at Civic Arena.

Lakers struck for two goals in 17 seconds just past the one minute mark of the first period and ran up a 6-0 lead after two full periods.

However, Lakers had to stave off a last period rally by Revelstoke to earn a 6-4 victory and extend their early season record to two wins and no losses.

Despite being hampered by injuries throughout the first two periods and a rash of bad penalties, Lakers' coach Chuck Tapp was infuriated at the outcome of the game.

"Four goals in a period is ridiculous," said Tapp, after down-dressing his charges in the dressing room following the game. "Especially when we don't get any . . . but then three of them were power-olays."



Lakers' forward Kevin Thorsen (8) shoots for the net during third period action at Civic Arena Friday night. Lakers ran up a 6-0 lead after two periods but had to settle for a 6-4 victory when Revelstoke Rangers rallied for four goals in the third period. Lakers will try and make it three in a row tonight in Merritt. (Daily News Photo)

NO CONCENTRATION

Although starting goaltender Shawn Oswald made many outstanding saves in the first two stanzas, Tapp felt he, along with the rest of Lakers' defence, went through the third period with a lack of concentration.

"Too many mental lapses in all departments but especially goaltending," said Tapp. "We had a 6-0 lead after two periods."

Another bone of contention for Tapp was an apparently deliberate plot by Rangers to take Lakers' defenceman Gavin Shuya out of the game in the second period.

Lawrence sent him (Gary Ruff) off the bench to take Shuya out," said Tapp. "We sort of lost a lot of composure after that and they kept rolling from there.

"If Lawrence wants to play that kind of hockey we'll play that way," added Tapp.

Shuya had scored once, set up two goals by Bob Wensley, and was controlling the game from the blueline along with defenceman Ken MacKenzie to that point. The decision to eject Shuya didn't sit well with Shuya's team-mates who felt it was unjust since the lanky defender hadn't dropped his stick or gloves nor tried to defend against the attack.

MacKenzie opened Lakers' scoring at 1:01 of the opening period with a blistering drive along the ice from the blueline after centre Kevin Thorlakson had won the draw in Rangers' territory.

Seventeen seconds later, rangey winger Glen Kirk tipped in another of Mackenzie's low shots from the point and Lakers opened up a 2-0 lead.

THREE GOALS

Wensley closed out scoring in the first period with his first of three goals for the evening. Shuya hit Wensley with a breakway pass and the veteran winger put a hard wrist-shot over the shoulder of the Revelstoke goaltender to make the score 3-0.

Three power-play tallies in the second period upped Lakers' lead to 6-0.

Wensley notched his second of the game just 29 seconds into the period when he deflected another of MacKenzie's blueline drives.

Wensley struck again at 13:58 for Lakers' last goal, popping in a rebound in front of the goalmouth, while Shuya notched the fifth Lakers' tally at 8:57 with one of his patented bullet-like drives from the top of the circle.

Rangers got a slow start in the third period, with Keith Maybin finally breaking Lakers' shutout at 7:05 with a power-play tally.

Steve Young also scored with the man advantage at 10:25 while Mike Dickerman made it 6-3 when he attempted to clear the puck into Lakers' zone and it caught the inside edge of the post while Oswald was out of position.

Verne Jinley closed out the scoring at 19:42 when he picked up a loose puck and fired it into an empty Vernon net with Oswald sprawled and Lakers' defence nowhere to be found.

Lakers outshot Rangers 48-45 in total but Revelstoke held a distinct edge in the third period.

Lakers were assessed 24 minor penalties in addition to four major penalties, and a pair of game misconducts. Rangers picked up 17 minors, two majors and two game misconducts.

HUMILIATED

In other BCJHL action Friday night, Penticton Knights humiliated Shuswap Totems 17-3 while on the coast it was Richmond Sockeyes over Cowichan Capitals 9-4 and Langley over Abbotsford 5-3.

Lakers next game is this evening when the club travels to Merritt to face the Centennials.

Cougars camp to open but NOHL won't operate

Vernon Cougars Intermediate Hockey Team opens its training camp Sunday, at 8 p.m., in the Civic Arena.

Cougars will practice five times next week in preparation for the 1983-84 season. Vernon, the defending North Okanagan Hockey League champion, is left without a league to play in this year. The NOHL was granted a one-year leave of absence from the B.C. Amateur Hockey Association when two of the four teams in the league, Princeton Coyotes and Kelowna Packers, withdrew.

The two remaining clubs, Oliver Bighorns and Cougars, will play a series of exhibition games and tournaments to qualify for Coy Cup provincial playdowns.

"In the long run it will probably be better for us," said Vernon General Manager Gary Swanson. "Every time we step on the ice this season we'll be up against a tough opponent. Beating Princeton by 10 or 15 goals per game didn't accomplish anything for us."

Cougars will play their first two games at home, Oct. 15 and 16, against Quesnel Kangaroos.

Swanson said, "I'm hoping for about 40 players at camp because we've got a lot of openings. There are probably eight or nine veterans who won't be returning."

Among the players not expected back are George Fargher, Murray Batty, Marty Stein, Jeff Vest, Wayne Dye, Mike Burns, and goalie Ed Forslund. Two others who commuted from Revelstoke last season, Bernie Reed and Randy Merritt, will not be available until November.

"We've still got a strong nucleus," Swanson said. "Guys like (Terry) Lowe, (Lyle) Brewer, (Gary) Gilchrist, (Dave) Schneider, and (goalie Charlie) Briskham are ready to go.

"We'll know better Sunday who we're going to have. A lot of guys don't make up their minds until the last minute."

Among the players Swanson is hoping to lure into Cougars' uniforms are Jerry Thygeson and Doug Lawton, of Penticton, who have spent the past three seasons with Oliver.

"Those two guys would really help us," Swanson said. "Thygeson wants to play here and he is talking to Lawton."

Highlight of the season will be the Cougars' annual tournament, Nov. 25-27.

45 ENTRANTS

Playoffs certain for Vernon Panthers

Vernon Panther Volleyball club got a shakey start in their first exhibition tournament in Westbank but are presently holding top spot at the round robin approaches playoffs.

Panthers dropped a 7-15 decision to Penticton before downing that club 16-14 in their second outing. Following the win, Panthers upended Lambrick Park, of Victoria, 15-8, 15-11, and beat Mt. Sentinal, of South Slocan, 15-11, 15-11.

"We're pretty well assured of a berth in the finals," said Panthers' coach Dennis Murdoch. "It has been a total team effort.

Panthers play KLO, of Kelowna, and Mt. Boucherie, of Westbank, in the final round robin games today with playoffs to commence at 4 pm.

Panthers topped the Okanagan Valley High School AA volleyball championship last year before finishing seventh, overall, at the B.C. Provincials.